

THE KEMINISCENCES OF CAUL SCHURZ

unnatural under the perplexing conditions then existing and the morbid state of mind they produced among the whites. Neither was it artfully concealed. It frankly avowed itself in a hundred ways by word and act. Here was the great opportunity of the Federal Government. Had it sternly discountenanced that hope "by making the South clearly understand that the " States lately in rebellion " would certainly not be restored to full self-government until the introduction of free labor should have -been in good faith and successfully accomplished and the rights of the freedmen reasonably secured, the Southern whites would, instead of striving to reverse the new order of things, have endeavored to study and improve their chances and opportunities, thus avoiding the worst troubles. But now President Johnson stepped in, and, directly encouraging the expectation that the States would without delay be restored to full self-control, even under present circumstances, distinctly stimulated the most dangerous reactionary tendencies to more reckless and baneful activity. The poor Southern people thus became the victims of reckless seduction and headed straightway for a sea of disastrous trouble and confusion.

This was my view of Southern conditions when I returned from my mission of inquiry. Arrived at Washington, I reported myself at once at the White House. The President's

private secretary, who seemed surprised to see
me, announced
me to the President, who sent out word that he
was busy.
When would it please the President to receive
me? The private
secretary could not tell, as the President's time
was much oc-
cupied by urgent business. I left the ante-room,
but called
again the next morning. The President was still
busy. I asked
the private secretary to submit to the President
that I had re-
turned from a three months* journey made at
the President's

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